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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/612,435 | PAULS, DARRYL R. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Mark A. Williams | 3676 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20050430</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ted Gillespie on 4/27/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 7, "a substantially" has been changed to --a plurality of substantially--.

In claim 1, line 7, "insert having" has been changed to --inserts, each damping insert having--.

In claim 1, lines 9-10, "wherein the dampening" has been changed to --wherein one of the flat major faces of the damping--.

In claim 1, line 10, "in contact" has been changed to --in sliding contact--.

In claim 1, line 10, after "the caster bolt", --during rotation of the caster bolt with respect to the housing,-- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 10, after "and", --the damping insert is engaged with--has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 10, after “the housing”, --during rotation of the caster bolt with respect to the housing-- has been inserted.

In claim 6, line 7, before “substantially flat”, --plurality—has been inserted; and “flat damping insert having” has been changed to –flat damping inserts each having two flat—has been inserted.

In claim 10, line 8, “a substantially” has been changed to –a plurality of substantially--.

In claim 10, line 8, “insert having” has been changed to –inserts, each damping insert having—.

In claim 10, lines 10-11, “wherein the dampening” has been changed to –wherein one of the flat major faces of the damping--.

In claim 10, line 11, “in contact” has been changed to –in sliding contact--.

In claim 10, line 11, after “the caster bolt”, --during rotation of the caster bolt with respect to the housing,-- has been inserted.

In claim 10, line 11, after “and”, --the damping insert is engaged with—has been inserted.

In claim 10, line 11, after “the housing”, --during rotation of the caster bolt with respect to the housing-- has been inserted.

In claim 6, line 8, before “substantially flat”, --plurality—has been inserted; and “flat damping insert having” has been changed to —flat damping inserts each having two flat—has been inserted.

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a caster wheel assembly in the entire claimed combination including a plurality of substantially flat damping inserts, each insert having two flat major faces oriented vertically and applying a biasing force between the caster bolt and the housing, and one of the major faces being in sliding contact with the caster bolt during rotation of the bolt, and damping insert also being engaged with the housing, as claimed.

Nor does the prior teach or fairly suggest a plurality of flat damping inserts, each insert having two flat major faces oriented substantially vertically and applying a biasing force between the caster bolt and the housing, and the damping insert having a first stiffness along a first axis and second difference stiffness along a second axis that is perpendicular to the first axis, as claimed.

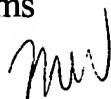
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Williams
4/30/05



Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600